EOC Daily Emergency Management Report

Date: 01/23/2014
Time: 10:30 EST
Report No: 014-14

Alerts & Warnings
FEMA National Watch Center – Watch/Steady State
National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) – No Current Alerts
Continuity of Operations (COOP) COGCON Level is 4
EPA HQ at Level 6 (Steady State)

EPA Headquarters Activities
The ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) aircraft is located in Addison, TX and is operational and available for deployment.

The Portable High Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification Systems (PHILIS) located in Edison, NJ and in Castle Rock, CO are operational and available for deployment.

The ERT Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) (Las Vegas, Edison, and RTP) and Mobile Command & HazMat Truck (Erlanger and Las Vegas) are available for deployment.

Significant National Weather
Severe Weather: No organized severe thunderstorm activity is forecast for today.

Significant Flood Outlook: There is significant river flooding occurring today along the border of South Carolina and Georgia. Flooding is also possible in northern Illinois and Indiana.

Critical Fire Weather: Critical fire weather is forecast today in portions of southeastern Oregon, northern California and southern California. An elevated fire threat also exists in these areas as well as in central California due to the presence of low humidity, gusty winds, and the ongoing drought in the region.

Tornado Weather: There is a less than a 2-percent chance of tornado activity in all regions today.

Earthquake Activity: No significant earthquake activity.

Tropical Weather: There is no tropical cyclone activity impacting any lands at this time.

Report of Incident Notifications

Region 4, Biodiesel Facility Fire, New Albany, MS

On 1/22 at 06:00 local time, an explosion and fire occurred at a biodiesel facility, JNS Biodiesel LLC (aka North Mississippi Diesel –previous owner), in New Albany, MS. The facility makes biodiesel fuel from cotton seed, animal fats and other materials. Based on news reports, no injuries were reported and all workers have been accounted for. The firefighters are letting the fire burn out. A Region 4 OSC arrived on site at 11:45 EST and MS Dept. of Environmental Quality was also on site. The explosion knocked out power in nearby areas, but power was restored by 13:00 EST. A second explosion occurred at 13:50 EST from a reactor vessel processing animal fat, methanol and glycerin. MS Highway 15 is closed to traffic. Oily material was running offsite via a field ditch but material was contained within the ditch to minimize migration. The facility has environmental contractors on site who are conducting air monitoring and collecting samples and will later conduct remediation.

On the evening of 1/22, the MS 47th Civil Support Team (CST) out of Jackson, MS mobilized additional air monitoring equipment to deploy. The fire continued to burn resulting in a dark plume moving to the NE. The same evening, Union County officials decided to evacuate approximately 50 homes downwind due to concerns about a night time inversion. Media interest remains high and media interviews have been handled by County EMA.

A third explosion occurred that was felt miles away at approx 05:05 EST this morning, 1/23. The explosion is suspected to be related to chicken fat tanks. The evacuation remains in place. The New Albany school board decided last night to close the two city schools located south of the facility. Some local businesses near the facility have also closed. Air monitoring activities by the contractor and the 47th CST continue and results indicate no sustained levels of concern. The smoke plume is still emanating but has lessened from earlier in incident. Highway 15 remains closed. The berm was increased and strengthened during the evening of 1/22 to contain continued runoff. The Region 4 OSC has integrated into Unified Command, and will remain on scene to ensure the response and coordinate with MDEQ, the local Fire department, and the facility.

Region 10, Asphalt Spill, Vancouver, WA

On 1/22 at 07:00 local time, a facility (Albina Fuels aka Vancouver Ice and Fuel) in Vancouver, WA had a containment tank leak of approximately 203,000 gallons of asphalt oil into secondary containment. The facility is adjacent to the Columbia River, but no release to water occurred. All of the released product remains in the secondary containment and the threat to surface water is considered very low. The release was from a breach in the 1 million gallon capacity tank where the tank wall meets the tank floor. Recovery operations were underway. A Region 10 OSC arrived on scene early afternoon of 1/22 along with an EPA START contractor. The company will continue to pump the released product to other tanks as long as the viscosity of the liquid allows. Further plans for removal of the solidified product will be generated by the facility. The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) fund has been opened for $7,500. EPA & WA Department of Ecology are working with the facility owner to identify incident objectives and the completion of a safety plan and will coordinate for further oversight of the response and removal operations.

Update: **Region 3, Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – January 23, 2014**

On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for 10 counties in West Virginia after 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) leaked from a tank and through a secondary containment area at a

Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the West Virginia American Water (WVAW) Treatment Plant. West Virginia water authorities issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties telling them not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing, which impacted 100,000 customers (300,000 people).

Region 3 OSCs reported that the facility continues to monitor the boom every 45 minutes along the river edge to ensure the ice does not build up. Freezing in the tubes used for pumping out the sumps around the facility is occurring. Most of the sumps are frozen at this point, but water is still running on the outside of the secondary containment. The remediation contractor's, CEC, primary goal for 1/22 was to locate the source of the water and divert it around the facility property. WVDEP met with the facility about the remediation plan and locations for future sampling.

On January 22, CDC added to their WV chemical release webpage, a prepared public information statement addressing health concerns of PPH, the proprietary mixture of polyglycol ethers, that was released to the river along with the MCHM. That information can be found at:
http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/MCHM/westvirginia2014/index.asp

On January 21, the facility had a loan tentatively approved at a Chapter 11 bankruptcy hearing that would allow it to continue to pay its employees and also pay to clean up the chemical leak into the Elk River earlier this month. Media interest remains high for this incident.
There were 21 epaosc.org websites created and/or updated during this reporting period (1/22/14-1/23/14).

Exercises/Predeployments
Region 7 is participating in a drinking water / homeland security table top exercise today.

Regional Daily Ops Status Report
Reported activities primarily represent NRC notifications with some State-level and other notifications to Regional Phone Duty Officers.

Reported Activities (1/22/14-1/23/14)

Region	Oil	Hazmat	Radiation	Other	Total
Region 1	1	0	0	0	1
Region 2	3	1	0	1	5
Region 3	1	2	0	1	4
Region 4	13	1	0	4	18
Region 5	1	2	0	3	6
Region 6	3	6	0	0	9
Region 7	0	0	0	0	0
Region 8	1	0	0	0	1
Region 9	7	0	0	1	8
Region 10	3	2	0	1	5
Total	33	14	0	10	57

Note: There were 3 unclassified events in the Hotline Log

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